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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul. 1950

SUBJECT Nationalist Desire to Evacuate Chinmen

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1. The Nationalist Ministry of National Defense (MND) is discussing ways to evacuate troops from Chinmen without giving the impression of a Communist victory. Most officials agree that the Nationalists probably cannot hold Chinmen without Seventh Fleet participation, and they feel that an actual defeat would be worse than a withdrawal.
2. A serious problem obstructs a sudden withdrawal, however. Troops on Chinmen have been propagandized for many months on the strategic importance of Chinmen to the defense of Taiwan. A sudden reversal of that line would probably have a serious demoralizing effect on both Chinmen forces and Taiwan defenders. A build up for withdrawal must be gradual to prevent the impression of another defeat by the Communists.

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3. [REDACTED] a decision to withdraw has actually been made, but that MND cannot agree on the best method of implementation.

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Comment. On 26 July Taiwan newspapers apparently were starting propaganda preparation by indirectly blaming the Chinmen situation on U.S. stoppage of Nationalist neutralization attacks on the mainland, thus permitting the Communists to prepare an invasion unhampered.

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